FTA NEWS

FOOD, TOBACCO, AGRICULTURAL AND ALLIED WORKERS U[NION]

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Reject Teamsters

FTA Wins Vote In California Sheds

Hard work at conferences, meetings, canvassing and talking with workers brought the FTA victory in the California lettuce sheds, where the AFL Teamsters piecards were rebuffed in the fourth straight FTA election victory. The hard work was mixed in with a little fun, too, as the two top pictures of FTA Local 78 rank and filers show. Pictures were snapped at Local 78's Labor Day picnic, and show (top) veteran cooks who prepared food and below, some of the rank and file workers' kids who helped demolish it. Bottom picture shows a working conference of Local 78 held in Salinas, Calif.

Vote Hits Raids; Dumps Traitors

In the fourth hard FTA blow at AFL raiders in recent months, thousands of fresh fruit and vegetable packing workers turned out to vote "NO" against a Teamster attempt to take over the FTA union in the California packing sheds.

The vote, taken at the order of the Taft-Hartley National Labor Relations Board, also dumped a small handful of traitor officials of FTA Local 78 who had tried to

Since by conference decision FTA-CIO does not subject its members to the Tatf-Hartley NLRB, FTA did not appear on the ballot and workers had to vote "NO" to keep their own union and reject the company-dominated Teamsters.

The election victory climaxed a long, hard campaign of fighting off Teamster raids and a process of rebuilding the union which began last July when a small group of renegade officials tried to sell the shed workers to the Teamsters.

The international union was forced to set up an administrative committee over the FTA local when the Teamster agents removed records and funds and started trying to force workers into the AFL. FTA International Vice-President Armando Ramirez was appointed administrator with a committee of four from the international to help him, plus a large rank and file committee that was extended as the campaign went on.

Commenting on the election results, FTA President Donald Henderson said:

"The workers in the fresh fruit and vegetable packing industry have used their votes to tell the officialdom of the Teamsters union where to go.

"Despite all the hysteria of redbaiting, despite the help of California's little unAmerican committee and despite the stream of money Teamster officials poured into the campaign, the packingshed workers kept their heads and their union—FTA Local 78."

FTA Local 78, whose contract with the grower-shippers runs until December 1, will start negotiating a new agreement, Henderson said, while continuing to enforce the present one.

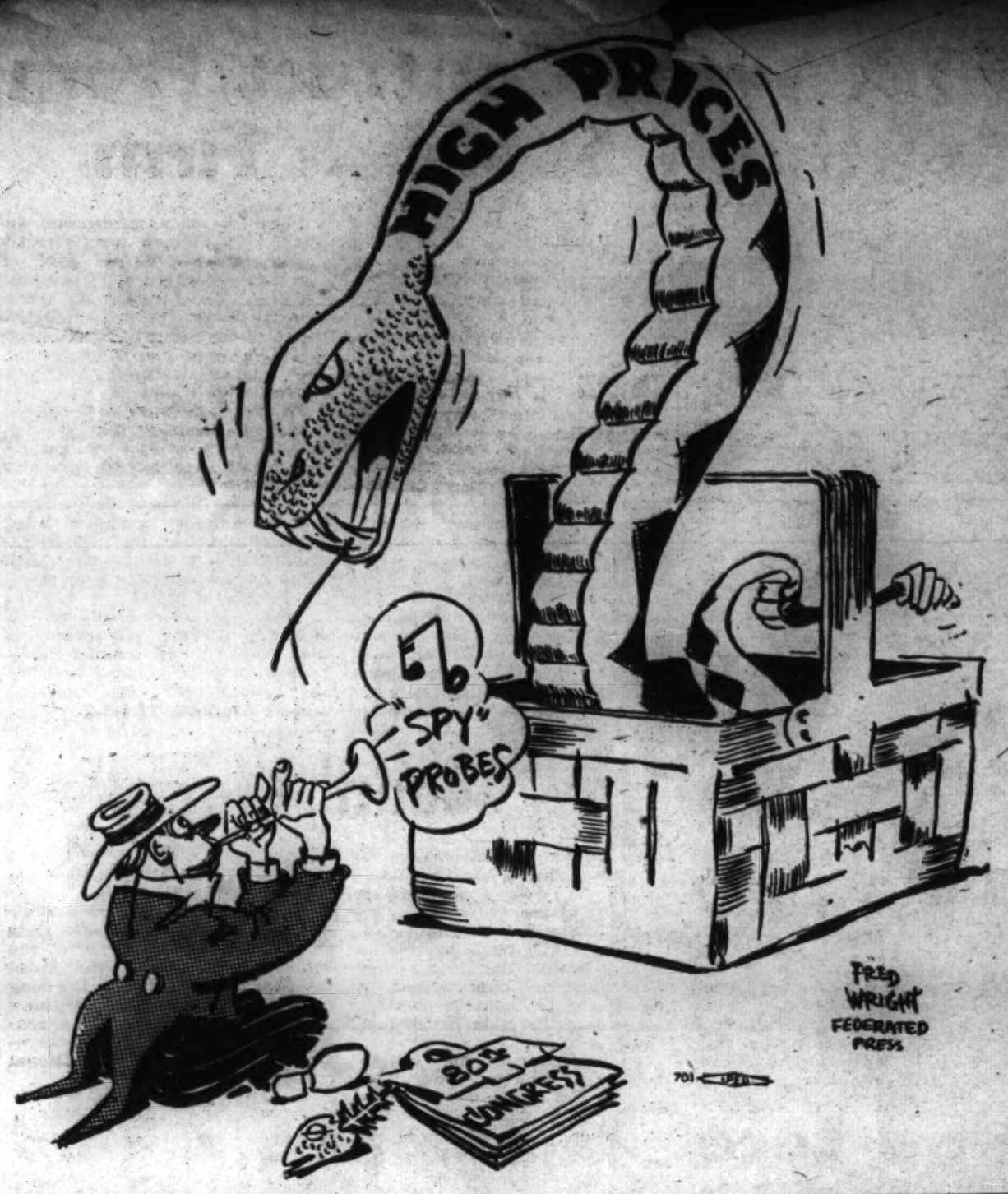
"A united and aroused membership will make the contract pay off in new benefits that the reengade officials refused to secure or the workers before," he added. "Unity and a militant approach to our problems will bring success."

Main campaign "issue" of the Teamster officials was the Taft-Hartley act and the phoney charge of "communism." Steady hammering on the real issues of contract enforcement and improvement, plus a demonstration of how a democratic union is run, countered this and won the support of the majority of the workers.

Final count in the vote was 1,659 "NO" votes on the question "Do you wish to be represented for purposes of collective bargaining by the AFL Teamsters union?" The Teamsters polled 1,332 votes, with only 25 challenged and 18 void.

During the course of the campaign, the former officials of the FTA local were turned over to the bonding company for investiagtion of financial irregularities.

They were also exposed repeatedly to the membership for failure to settle grievances, hold democratic meetings or organize new sections of the industry.



FROM WASHINGTON

COMPANY UNION CONGRESS

By C. W. Fowler

Some years ago before the New Deal and before the upsurge of labor organization, company unions set up and operated by the companies themselves were pretty much the order of the day in the mass production industries.

In those days the companies did their own dirty work, setting up a high-sounding "Employes Representation Plan" or some similar gadget that fiddled around with drinking water or something equally harmless, but never touched on the real issues of wages or working conditions.

The CIO put an end to that, when millions of workers, including many thousands in the food, tobacco and fiber processing industries organized their own unions and drove the company rats under cover.

Now, in the bi-partisan Truman-Hoover-Dewey era, the company union is coming up from under the planks again. This time the companies have a new agency to do their dirty work. No longer do they rely so much on the Pinkertons and the Chowderhead Cohens—whom, incidentally, the companies had to pay themselves. They have Congress to do the company union job, this time at the taxpayers' expense.

The job is being done mainly through the agency of Congressional Committees, with the House Labor Committee and the House Committee on unAmerican Activities dividing up the work.

Currently, the House Labor Committee is working out its anti-labor venom on the United Electrical Workers, the United Public Workers and the International Fur and Leather Workers unions, all CIO and all strong fighters against the Taft-Hartley law and what it stands for. Other progressive unions, FTA included, are undoubtedly on the list to follow.

In each case the technique has been the same. Union leaders are hauled up before the committee, sworn and put through a grilling that defies every legal and constitutional safeguard in the Bill of Rights.

The committee, of course, can ask any question its members decide upon. They ask progressive union leaders about their private political beliefs, their union policies, their personal lives, even their religion. No standard of decency or respect for the Constitution stops them.

Further than that the committees drag out a series of stoolpigeons and anti-union finks to "testify" against the elected, rank and file leaders. Sometimes, as in the job on the Fur Workers, they bring employers in to "tell all" about the union.

Every word that the stoolpigeons and disrupters say against the union is believed. The union men themselves are not allowed any of the rights of American citizens. They are not allowed to have their own counsel or to consult among themselves while being grilled.

They are not allowed to cross-examine or even question witnesses against them. They are not allowed to make statements or answer questions in their own way. If the committee chooses, they are hustled off by armed guards and insulted, bullied and physically manhandled.

In one instance, Irving McCann, counsel for the House Labor Committee, was allowed to assault a union witness — in this case, Joseph Padway, lawyer for the AFL and a man of over 60. Padway died of a heart attack shortly after. McCann, of course, is still in business for the House group.

The leaders of the progressive CIO unions, men who were elected to lead the UE, the Fur Workers and the Public Workers, have fought back, standing on their rights as citizens and on their responsibilities as leaders.

FTA called the turn on union-busting by Congressional committee many months ago, when FTA President Donald Henderson flatly accused the Labor Committee of conspiracy against the wages and conditions of American workers.

The charge hit so hard that the Labor Committee refused to let Henderson appear, fearing the truth of what he said. The same charge was made by officers of FTA Local 22 when the unAmericans hauled them up for attack.

This is the essence of the Congressional Committee as now handled by the bi-partisan Democrats and Republicans—a brazen attempt to smash genuine unions, lower wages, worsen conditions. This is the essence of company unions — Congress brand.

Silk Purses Made Cheap

There's an old proverb about the futility of trying to make silk purses out of sow's ears—it's generally accepted that the attempt is never successful.

Apparently certain labor leaders supporting Truman for President have either not heard the proverb or don't believe in it, for they're trying to do just that with Truman's record.

They've just put out a nicely printed little leaflet dealing with Truman's labor record. Here's what it says:

"As President, Truman asked for Fact Finding Boards to help fair settlement of disputes. When Congress passed the anti-labor Case bill instead, Truman vetoed it. When his reasonable proposals for improving the Wagner Act were twisted into the Taft-Hartley act, Truman vetoed that. He stands today for repeal of the act."

That's all, according to the pro-Truman record. No mention whatever is made of Truman's real record. How he broke the 1946 railroad workers' strike, for example, by calling for a law to draft strikers.

No mention made of the phoney character of the Taft-Hartley veto, for example, when a majority of Truman's own party voted for the slave labor law, and when no real attempt was made to rally Democratic support for the vote in the Senate. And what about the injunctions and fines levied against labor unions since the act was passed?

Or take the section on price control, where the pro-Truman leaflet says: "Truman called on Congress to keep the OPA." Here no mention is made of the fact that Truman himself lifted controls on meat, without even waiting for Congress to act. Nothing is said about Truman's denunciation of the whole idea of price control as a "police state" method.

On taxes, the leaflet claims "Truman called on Congress to restore taxes on the flat profits of business." But it was the 79th Congress, controlled by Truman's own party, that rushed to repeal the excess profits tax as early as 1945, giving big business billions of dollars with which to fight labor.

But why go on? Once you commit yourself as a labor leader to support a strikebreaker for President, you have to try to build up a case for him—even if the real record gives you the lie at every turn.

No, silk purses can't be made that easily—with that kind of material.

Produce More—Get Fired

Ever since the war officially ended, the newspapers and the politicians have been hammering "produce more" at the workers as the cure for all high cost of living evils.

To listen to the National Association of Manufacturers and their stooges in Congress, the daily papers and on the radio, the average citizen would think that American workers are just a bunch of lazy bums who don't know how to handle machinery.

Even such a "respectable" journal as the New York Times joins in the cry for "more production," only to be caught in a tissue of its own lies when official U.S. figures show how much output per worker has gone up since the shooting war ended.

Now comes the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics to point out that the productivity (output per worker) of workers in the canning and preserving industry increased 26.5 percent between 1939 and 1946. In short, a cannery worker in 1946 was putting out one-quarter as much again as he put out in the same time in 1939.

But here's the rub—in 1947 there was a sharp cutback in employment in the industry, due to layoffs. This resulted in an eight percent cut in total production per worker. In other words, the individual worker worked harder and produced more, but the total output was less due to layoffs.

The cannery workers worked harder. Their productivity went up. The canneries laid them off—and both jobs and total production went down. That's the payoff on NAM's advice to "work harder, produce more."

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FTA 300 Wins Pay Raise, Other Gains

Making the first large scale breakthrough on the united front no-wage increase policy of the cigar industry, FTA Local 300 has just signed a contract covering seven DWG Cigar Corp. plants in Ohio and Michigan.

The contract, covering some 2,000 workers, brings an average increase of close to 11 cents an hour in earnings, making FTA-won rates in DWG the highest in the machine cigar industry.

The average of close to 11 cents an hour increase brought actual increases to some workers as high as 33 cents an hour, where certain inequities were corrected.

(Other wage increases, won by FTA locals in New York and New Jersey, have also broken through the no-increase policy in smaller plants. Further concessions were won from American Tobacco in Charleston, S. C., and Philadelphia, Pa. See stories on page 8.)

Another first scored by Local 300 was on the rates for double die machines, where the union has again broken through a no-increase policy of the industry. Rates won by Local 300 on these machines are now substantially above those obtaining in other sections of the cigar manufacturing business.

Other gains included an agreement by the DWG Corporation to pay 14 grievance committee members from the seven plants for time lost while attending the monthly grievance committee meeting, usually held in Lima, Ohio. Previously the union had to pay for the time lost.

An irrevocable checkoff of union dues was also included in the new agreement. The company had tried to discard checkoff authorizations signed the year before, in an attempt to force the union to collect new cards each year. Under the agreement, the automatic renewal clause in the old contract is continued in effect.

Renewed protection for the union against suits rising from unauthorized strikes was also secured.

Heading the negotiations committee was Local 300 President Sally Sullivan, with a large committee of rank and file members to assist her. FTA Secretary-Treasurer Armando Valdes helped in the negotiations.

FTA Wins Contract From Southern Shellfish Firm

By Dillard Oakes

(FP)—"Down here in Louisiana, workers in the seafood industry have licked the toughest kind of organizational problems and overcome vigorous employer opposition—by sticking together."

This is what FTA Intl. Rep. A. A. O'Brien told me as he outlined the struggle that ended successfully when Local 309 was accepted as bargaining agent by the Southern Shellfish Co., major shrimp, crab and oyster outfit in the area.

O'Brien explained that the first major organizing difficulty arose because employes do not work in a single factory or cannery, but move around from place to place. Some may work in two or three different sections in a single day.

Another problem which the union licked resulted from the complete freedom of movement which pickers and shuckers, all pieceworkers, are permitted. There is no set starting time, no set dinner hour, no set time to quit, O'Brien pointed out. Each worker carries a little handkerchief full of badges, a different one for each plant. He's paid only for what he turns out.

The workers live in a number of communities spread out from the plant area. Company buses pick them up and take them to the plants, which may be as far as 40 miles away. These same buses transport workers from plant to plant during the day. Because of the many different residential sections, the union must contact workers in small groups. It is just about impossible to get all of them together at one meeting, O'Brien said.

Southern Shellfish was also familiar with union difficulties. Two months before the old contract was due to expire, the company told the union that unless it agreed to an NLRB-conducted election, negotiations would not be resumed.

Then the union sprang into action. FTA officials went directly to the workers, 95 per cent of whom are women and 75 per cent Negroes. Local rallies and community demonstrations made it clear to the company that unless a 20 per cent raise were granted and a dues check-off instituted, strike would result.

The day before the old contract ended the company told O'Brien that it was willing "to get together and negotiate to have better relations."

The raise pleases the workers and the checkoff saves the union, O'Brien said, because the complicated nature of the industry made it almost impossible to keep members in good standing.

"And one other result of our victory," O'Brien remarked, "is that workers of smaller companies are now joining Local 309 and getting the same wages we won at Southern Shellfish." .....

FTA Buckeye Unit Meets, Lists Gains

Meeting in Memphis, Tenn., recently, the FTA Joint Council of Buckeye Cotton Oil Co, plants mapped out a program for coming negotiations covering four units of the chain—two in Memphis, one in Corinth, Miss. and one in Montgomery, Ala.

The Council took time to review gains made over the past two years, which include substantial wage increases, union security, six paid holidays, paid vacations, time and half after eight hours in one day and 40 in one week and four hours call-in pay.

Straight across the board wage increases won for workers in Buckeye plants under FTA contracts add up to nearly $1,500,000 in the two year period.

Increases won through overtime pay, vacations, etc., amount to another $225,000—making a total of close to $1,750,000 the union has put in the pockets of the 1,200 workers under contract, Regional Director Larry Larsen reports.

FTA Quaker Oats Council Wins Pact

Coming just a week under a strike deadline, FTA Locals 110, 125, 115, 120 and 19 have won a new contract from the Quaker Oats chain, bringing total raises for this year to 11 cents an hour and other important gains.

Gains included a four cents general increase (added to seven cents won in January), three weeks vacation after 15 years service (the FTA Council of Quaker Oats locals already had one week for one year's service and two weeks for four years), a one month's extension of the contract plus a wage reopening clause and a 30-day reopener clause on overtime pay. ..

The overtime reopener was secured to protect the union in view of the Supreme Court decision upholding the payment of overtime pay on work outside the 40-hour week.

Commenting on the victory, which came after numerous meetings in cities where FTA has Quaker Oats locals, Regional Director Paul Gardner said:

"This victory was made possible by the unity of all Quaker Oats locals and the hard work of the committee members, who stood together as one through the long period of negotiations. Assistance at every crucial point was rendered by Armando Valdes, secretary-treasurer of the international union."

FTA Local 160 Looks Ahead

FTA Local 160, chartered not so long ago out in Hamilton, Ohio, is doing some pretty plain thinking about its next contract, even though the first one was signed less than six months ago.

Writing in the "Mixit," lively local paper published by the workers at American Home Foods in the Ohio town, the local said recently:

"It is less than six months from the expiration date of the contract and we must start preliminary discussion on our proposed changes for the agreement.

"We are still living under the Taft-Hartley act, and most companies have been stubborn in dealing with unions under this setup. . . . We have every reason to believe that they (American Foods) will again deal with us in good faith, but we have no guarantee, and therefore we must prepare ourselves for any eventuality.

"All meetings from now on will be of major importance. It will be up to us to see that there is the broadest possible representation from each department.

"The committee that you elect to represent you in dealing with management for a new agreement will be charged with carrying out the mandate of the membership."

Local 160's President, Clyde Congleton, adds a few pointed words on the Taft-Hartley act, when he says in quoting from a former NLRB official:

"Once you get tied up with the Taft-Hartley act, brother, you are tied until Kingdom Come or until your dough runs out or your membership disappears.'

To which Local 160 President Congleton adds: "We must reaffirm our position of non-compliance (with Taft-Hartley redtape) and at the same time wage a determined fight along with our fellow American workers for repeal of the Taft-Hartley act."

How Local 15 Stopped a Raid

Six months of AFL raiding, with its usual train of lies, disruption and attempted union-busting have left FTA Local 15, in the giant American Tobacco Co. plant in Charleston, S. C., stronger than ever.

The story is a familiar one to FTA workers who have been subjected to AFL raiding attempts, whether the attack comes from the AFL Tobacco Workers union in the South or the AFL Teamsters in the West. It is a story of an attempt that failed to destroy a union, because the workers knew the score and recognized a phoney when they saw it.

More than six months ago, the rank and file workers in Charleston united to throw back an AFL-company union offensive. They defeated the AFL Tobacco Workers by a two to one "NO" vote that kept their FTA union and rejected the raiders.

Despite their stinging defeat, the AFL disrupters kept hanging around the plant gates. They tried to tell the workers that FTA Local 15 "would never get a contract," that American Tobacco would never recognize a union "that didn't sign Taft-Hartley affidavits," and similar stale and ancient lies.

The rank and file workers themselves told the AFL where to go. Hundreds of workers were signed up on FTA check-off cards. Rank and filers like Nan Carter, Lula Wright, Ella Collins, Lillie Martin, Rebecca Wall, Louise Simmons, Irene Reid, Corine Cokley and others too numerous to mention went ahead with the job of building Local 15.

Men workers, such as John Cummings, former AFL local president Andrew Hicks and former AFL vice-president Charles Tucker pitched in to help make the FTA union strong.

A new contract was won. Improved vacations, sick leave and other FTA-won benefits added to the welfare of the workers. Grievance machinery was tightened up. Around election time the company laid off some 200 Negro workers. Most of them are now back on the job. A fight for strict observance of seniority was carried on.

Andrew Hicks and Charles Tucker put it this way: "We just can't be fooled all of the time. We have learned that unity of the workers pays off in better working conditions, better grievance settlement and a better contract.

This is the pattern Dewey and Truman want to see repeated all over the nation—despite fine words of friendship for labor. Tanks, teargas, machineguns and bayonets are thrown at strikers at Univis plant in Dayton, O. Strikers are members of United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers. They won the strike after a long and bitter struggle.

Distracted by unemployment, poverty and threatened eviction, Mrs. Lucille Chalifoux of Chicago turns away after posting this bitter sign in front of her house. (Statistical note: U. S. Government spends more on pigs than it does on children.)

Look at the Record— Then Vote Your Choice

There's an old American custom in politics known by the descriptive phrase—"let's look at the record." By following this custom, voters are able to cut through the fog of the campaign oratory and get down to the issues.

In the 1948 election, rightly considered one of the most critical in American history, we need to dispense with our emotions, need to ignore the flood of newspaper and radio verbiage spilled at us every hour of the day—and get down to the record and to the issues.

There are three candidates for President of the U.S. coming up for our votes on Tuesday, November 2. (We list them in alphabetical order.) One is Thomas E. Dewey, Republican and three times Governor of the state of New York. Another is Harry S. Truman, President of the U. S., and candidate of the Democratic party. The third is Henry A. Wallace, former Vice-President of the U. S. under FDR and candidate of the Progressive party.

Where do these three men stand on the issues of the day—on peace, on labor's rights, on the cost of living, on civil rights, housing—a host of other issues that affect our daily lives?

One man—Dewey—proclaims that he is the logical choice of the voters because he will give the country the most efficient administration, will really pursue a "tough" foreign policy and will bring about "unity" of the nation behind a Republican administration and Congress.

The second candidate, President Truman, promises to revive the New Deal of FDR, to repeal the Taft-Hartley law and also to maintain a "tough" foreign policy. Truman blasts the 80th (Republican controlled) Congress and, in campaign speeches, calls on the voters to regard him as a liberal.

The third candidate, Henry Wallace, takes his stand on peaceful cooperation with the Soviet Union and the United Nations, pledges to restore the Wagner act and to wipe out the Taft-Hartley law, pledges a return to price control and actively fights for civil rights.

Party Background

A wise old Greek named Aristotle remarked some 2,500 years ago that man is a political animal. There were political parties in his day, too, and the men who vied for office had organiaztions behind them. It is not recorded whether they had nominating conventions such as took place in Philadelphia this summer, but probably they did.

Let us look at the three parties and the forces controlling them that nominated Dewey, Truman and Wallace last June and July.

Thomas E. Dewey was nominated by the GOP after the Pennsylvania delegation switched its votes to him, leaving the other main contender, Senator Taft (of the Taft-Hartley law) out in the cold. Leader of the switch was former U. S. Senator Joe Grundy, 80-year-old head of the Pennsylvania Association of Manufacturers and a bitterly anti-union manufacturer in his own right. All of Pennsylvania's Republican Congressmen and its GOP Senator (Edward T. Martin) voted for the Taft-Hartley law in Congress.

President Truman was reluctantly nominated for President at the Democratic party convention, after the big city machine bosses and the pro-Democratic labor leaders (including CIO President Philip Murray) had tried vainly to get another candidate. When Eisenhower refused to run, they accepted Truman in what was described by reporters as a singular outburst of lack of enthusiasm. A section of Truman's party broke away and formed the "Dixiecrats" because he said he was for civil rights.

Henry Wallace was nominated for President by a convention of 3,500 delegates, over half of which were workers, and accepted the nomination along with vice-presidential Senator Glen Taylor before a cheering throng of 35,000 people in Philadelphia's baseball park.

Workers, farmers, veterans, young people, housewives made up the Progressive party delegates. President Donald Henderson of FTA was elected a member of the national committee of the Progressive party. The Natl. Association of Manufacturers and the Chamber of Commerce were not represented.

It's the record that counts. Look at the record in the adjoining columns, make your choice—and then VOTE.

194 Finds Political Action Key To Holding Union-Won Gains

By Elizabeth Wroton

Despite Taft-Hart'ey inspired toughness on the part of all companies, FTA Local 194 has been able to come out of this year's negotiations with a solid record of increases ranging from five cents to 11½ cents, improvements in a number of contracts, and extensions for at least one year.

The last contract was negotiated in August at the Libby, McNeill and Libby Company, where the workers won nine cents across the board and a penny on inequities, after especially hard fought negotiations. The Blue Island unit of the Libby chain has thrown every obstacle in the way of collective bargaining: trying to buy off certain sections of the workers with high wage increases, to the didect detriment of the majority of the workers; operating for months without a contract and without honoring the check-off.

The College Inn p'ant made especially high gains, with a package amounting to 11½ cents, which includes seven cents for women and nine cents for men across the board increases and six paid holidays. All workers in the plant re-signed checkoff cards for the union.

At the big one—Campbell Soup plant—the largest tomato season in history is just now completed. An ominous sign of the times developed this year — the company processed the largest pack in history, with fewer workers than ever. The speedup has increased tremendously.

Commenting on the situation, John Gallacher, president of Local 194, said: "This is because unions are being crucified on the altar of greed by monopolies, such as the Campbell Soup empire and Libby's. The Taft-Hartley law has taken away some of the weapons that these workers had before, and put new weapons in the hands of these companies. We resolve to fight this thing to the finish. We will never live as slaves to any company, be it Campbell Soup, Libby's or any other."

Local 194 officers and members feel that their No. 1 job between now and elections is political action. This conviction has resulted in participation by the local in every phase of the campaign of the Progressive party in the state of Illinois, and especially its fight for the right to be on the ballot. The denial of a place on the Illinois ballot to the Progressive party and Henry A. Wallace and Glen Taylor has stirred up the anger of Local 194 members.

As Chief Steward and Vice-President Henry Gistover, one of the hardest-hitting spokesmen for political activity in the union, said: "In looking over the political situation of our nation and the fascist-like attacks that are being used on working people by robbing them of their constitutional rights here in Illinois, we realize that if Progressive representatives in Congress and the Senate do not win in the election, the speedup in our plants wi'l be far worse after November 2nd. Speaking from experience and not theory, the unions are on the verge of being annihilated unless we put our utmost into the fight to elect candidates who will repeal the TaftHa-rtley act."

The lawless tactics of the Democratic and Republican machines in Chicago were demonstrated to the workers of the Campbell Soup Plant right in front of their own plant gates last week. A gate demonstration, with a sound truck, was held for the purpose of collecting political action fund dollars. In spite of a U. S. Supreme Court decision that it is a denial of the constitutional right of free speech to bar the use of sound trucks, the police grabbed the microphone out of the hands of Leon Beverly of the Packinghouse Workers who was speaking at the time, and arrested him.

When the case came up in court, the judge on finding that Beverly was speaking for the Progressive party, raised the bail which had previously been set at $10 to $100 and threatened to arrest the union's lawyer if he spoke for the Progressive party. This, in the face of the fact that Democrats and Republicans are today speaking from sound trucks at plant gates all over the city entirely unmolested.

The next three weeks are to be weeks of intensive campaign work, door to door, neighborhood, street-corner and precinct work for members of Local 194. The Progressive party, although barred from the state ballot, is on the ballot in Cook County, and the slogan is being raised that "A vote for the Cook County Progressive party is a vote for Wallace and free elections." A very large number of Local 194 members live in the First Congressional District, the concentration point of the entire campaign, and a large number of them have been active in their wards for many months in the campaign to elect Earl B. Dickerson on the Progressive ticket to Congress.

Its What They Do That Counts

WALLACE

The Wallace record is clear. When he was Secretary of Commerce, Wallace came out (1945) with an official government report showing that industry could pay a 30c wage increase and still have better than pre-war profits. After [illegible] workers got the first postwar wage increase.

Wallace fights for peace. When Truman filled his cabinet with bankers and generals, Wallace left it to carry the fight for peace to the people—where it counts.

Wallace fights for civil rights—the hard way. Wallace has faced hecklers and Ku Kluxers in the heart of Jim Crow, refusing to countenance segregation and discrimination. Neither Truman nor Dewey has shown the guts to speak up for civil rights in this manner.

Wallace fights for labor. The Progressive party pledges repeal of the Taft-Hartley law and a return to the Wagner act. Wallace's running mate, Glenn H. Taylor, introduced the first bill to repeal Taft-Hartley. Wallace is the only candidate who stands for a $1.00 an hour minimum wage for all workers.

Wallace is the only candidate who demands a return to price control.

TRUMAN

Truman says he's for repeal of the Taft-Hartley law. But a majority of Truman's party in the Senate voted to over-ride his veto of Taft-Hartley, while Truman made no effort to mobilize votes to support it.

Truman asked for a law to draft railroad workers in 1946. He threatened to use the Army, Navy and Coast Guard to break a maritime strike. He got injunctions and fines against the coal miners in 1946, fining the union $3,500,000 at one point. Later, he got another injunction when the miners asked for pensions, got numerous injunctions against union printers, maritime workers, others.

Truman signed the bill outlawing claims for back wages under the Wage Hour act. His administration has consistently ruled against including food processing workers in the act. He has asked for only 75c an hour as a minimum wage.

On civil rights, Truman has made promises but done nothing. His own party (with the help of the Republicans) has blocked polltax repeal, anti-lynch laws, FEPC. No lynchers have been punished by Truman's Dept. of Justice.

On peace, Truman made a half-hearted attempt to send an envoy to Moscow to talk settlement. When his Secretary of State, General Marshall, slapped him down, Truman retreated.

Truman talks one way, produces the other way.

DEWEY

Thomas E. Dewey, the miniature edition of the Great Engineer of the 1930's, is a careful man. He's mainly careful in public—careful about coming out on any specific issue. However, he has said and does a few things in public—and a great many more in private—that give us more than a clue to how he would behave in the White House, if he gets there.

Dewey has publicly praised the Taft-Hartley law and the 80th Congress that passed it. While the 80th GOP Congress was passing the Taft-Hartley law, Dewey ordered his N. Y. state legislature to pass a law denying all public employes the right to strike.

While the same Congress was refusing to do anything about housing, Dewey's state police were pushing around numerous delegations that came to Albany to ask for action on behalf of veterans and others. In 1944, when Dewey ran against FDR, his legislature passed a law making it almost impossible for GI's to vote.

In Freeport, N. Y., a policeman brutally murdered two Negro veterans in cold blood. Dewey, as Governor, did nothing to punish them. The 80th Congress, which Dewey applauds 100 percent, did nothing to pass polltax repeal, anti-lynch laws, FEPC.

Dewey fully endorses the "cold war' policies of the bi-partisans in control of Congress and the Truman administration. His choice for Secretary of State—John F. Dulles—was lawyer for pro-axis groups during the war.

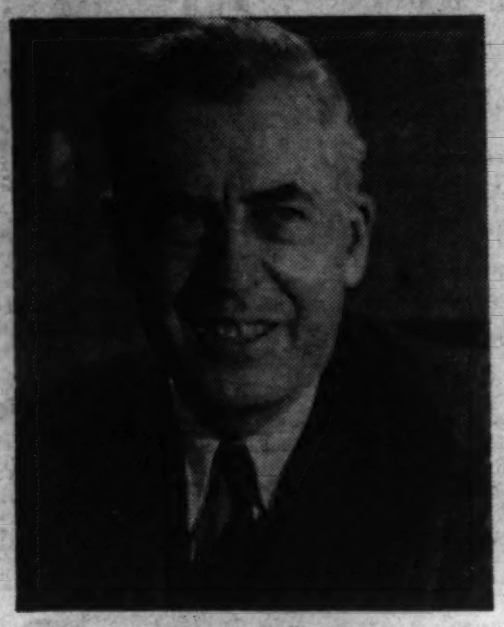
Truman-Dewey bid for Wall Street's favor—with the odds on Dewey—but the American people fight. At left, union members protest Mundt-Nixon thought control bill in successful "march" on Washington last spring. Center, a workingclass mother and her children try to live in the home of the brave and right, a housewife fights to put meat on her family's table. That's USA, 1948.

High Profits Cause Of High Prices—Wallace

Inflated prices for food, shelter and clothing are not something like the weather—that you can't do anything about—they're man-made in Wall Street and they can be ended, Henry Wallace told his nationwide radio audience this week.

"Inflation is not accidental; it is man-made, it is monopoly-made. It was made and forced upon us by the men of Wall Street, acting through their agents—the Republican and Democratic parties," he said.

Excerpts from the speech, one of a series presented Monday nights over the American Broadcasting Co. network at 10:30 p.m. (Eastern Standard Time) are given on this page.



...for President

...for Vice-President

Tonight I want to talk about the main subject at every dinner table in America: the price of meat, the price of shoes, the price of milk—the cost of living.

I want to talk about inflation.

Inflation, what you and I call the high cost of living, is not something that just happens—like the weather—and like the weather, there's nothing you can do about it. That's not true. Inflation is not accidental; it is man-made: it is monopoly-made. It was made and forced upon us by the men of Wall Street, acting through their agents—the Republican and Democratic parties.

And there is something we can do about it; we can end it.

The high cost of living, which is a daily and an hourly horror to the housewives, wage earners, small businessmen and farmers of America, is a profitable venture for the men of monopoly.

Indeed, it is the most profitable venture in history. They are making profits at the rate of 20 billion dollars a year because you and I are paying 25 cents for a bottle of milk. The prices you and I pay for meat and for a car, have given the meat trust and the steel trust more money than they ever made, even during the war.

Yes, the men of monopoly wanted inflation. They planned for inflation, and they got inflation.

How did this all come about?

MONOPOLY COMES BACK

We drove the men of monopoly, the money changers, out of the temple in 1933—and with them their whole view that government is run for the few. But, in 1940, when the nation was in danger, these men of the Liberty League, these same men who had always fought Franklin Roosevelt, began a comeback. They had the government and the people "over a barrel" (as an authoritative official investigation put it) and they refused to produce except on terms they dictated, except at profits they demanded.

Present-day sky-high prices began in the profiteering of 1940 and 41. But under Roosevelt, we held them in check. We imposed controls on behalf of the people—and they worked. We held the line on prices and profits—and that worked.

But the men of monopoly were there all the time, waiting, waiting—

And when Roosevelt died, they saw their opportunity and they moved in.

They moved in on Harry Truman and he welcomed them. The representatives of the men of greed (the men who preach a scarcity economy) were his first visitors after FDR's death. I recall, on the train, coming back from Hyde Park (the President had just been buried), Truman's first callers were Edwin Pauley and George Allen—the errand boys of the biggest corporations.

Herbert Hoover was called in. The engineer of the Great Depression helped engineer the right-about-face in Roosevelt's policies. Cabinet shifts were made. The men who had stood firm on price control, on rent control, on excess profits taxes, were the first to go.

The Harrimans, the Snyders, the Forrestals of Wall Street took over. And with them, naturally, came the policies of Wall Street. With them came the policy of government on behalf of the few, of government against the people. The Roosevelt program of controls by the people on behalf of the people went, and the Hoover-Dewey-Truman policy of controls in the hands of monopoly for the benefit of monopoly came in.

They competed with each other, the Democrats and Republicans, in their zeal to serve monopoly. Truman hastened to announce that the war was officially at an end for the corporations. In that simple act, he turned over to the corporations two billion dollars in tax refunds, in 1945. But for you and me, the end of the war did not mean an end of taxes—there was no refund. You and I are still paying wartime taxes every time we buy baby powder or pocket books, every time we buy a railroad ticket or a movie ticket.

PROFITS DOUBLED

With the enthusiastic endorsement of Hoover and Vandenberg, Truman lifted the excess profits tax and unleashed an orgy of profiteering. Where under FDR profits had been kept down to nine billion dollars a year, under Harry Truman profits rose in insane, unchecked fashion: 18 billion in 1947, 20 billion in 1948.

The Truman-Hoover-Dewey men of greed killed OPA by easy stages. They took off a control here and a ceiling there, until there was no protection left for ordinary Americans, until the steel trust, the real estate lobby, the food trust and the milk gang were recording profits higher than any before in history. And to you and me this meant we could not build a new home, we could not afford a second-hand car, we could not afford adequate milk for our children.

Inflation is the work of the men of Wall St. and their agents: Truman, Hoover and Dewey. No amount of name-calling, now, by Harry Truman can change the record: that at every turn he served monopoly against the people. Let Truman rail against the "gluttons of Wall St." It was at the behest of these same gluttons that he lifted controls on building materials, a month after VJ Day. By this act low cost homes for GI's went up in smoke, while the gluttons made big profits building theaters and race tracks and luxury homes.

It was Truman and the Republicans, who broke the back of price control early in 1946 when he gave the steel gluttons a $5.00 a ton price increase. And you and I are paying for that price increase in every item we buy, while the steel trust more than doubles the profits it made in 1945, under price control.

Do you know why you are paying $1.00 a pound for hamburger? It is because Truman Democrats and Dewey Republicans joined hands in killing the final controls on food prices. Two years ago the meat trust went on a sit-down strike (refusing to provide food for our tables). Harry Truman, who had strength enough to break the legitimate strike of the railroad workers a few months earlier, found he could not lift a finger against the meat trust. He gave them what they wanted: meat controls were lifted.

The same for rent controls. At every turn it was the Democratic-Republican servants of the gluttons who joined hands—as they have done regularly since FDR died—to bury the corpse of OPA, to unleash profiteering on America. And when the people, angered by the betrayal, demanded a return of controls, the spokesman for big business and the twin parties of big business, Harry Truman, called controls "police state" methods.

In the year following the end of the war, the profiteers were granted the right to free, uninterrupted gluttony. They got their inflation.

'COLD WAR'—HOT PROFITS

But to keep an inflation going you have to keep giving it greater and greater shots in the arm. For the gluttons it was inflation or bust. They found their answer in the cold war, in an armaments economy. They found their solution in what Mr. Dewey slickly calls "waging the peace."

Barron's, leading journal of big finance, pointed out way back in '45: "an armaments boom is the only ultimate major alternative . . . to a decline in business." Barron's forecast became official policy. You see, early in 1947 and again in '48, prices began to sag, the commodity market declined—and the dread word "depression" appeared in the business pages of the press. It was at this strategic moment that the red menace was conveniently discovered in Greece. It was at this point in history that the Truman Doctrine and the Marshall Plan and an armaments-economy were put over on the people to sustain and increase the profits of the few.

They invoked the frightening word "crisis" whenever it suited their purpose. They wheeled in another red danger whenever it was needed to justify a new multi-billion dollar expenditure for their cold war.

And who profited from all these crisis and plans? Quite naturally, the men of Wall St. who had fabricated the crisis, had blueprinted the plans and whose agents of both parties in the White House and Congress executed them. Standard Oil and General Motors are making profits equal to one-fifth the profits of all corporations in America before the war.

And their military expenditures do not even give us adequate security. As Franklin Roosevelt said, the nation cannot be strong if the government fails to protect the economic well-being of its citizens. We lack housing. We are forced to cut down on meat and milk and clothing. We are robbed twice: once at the grocery store and a second time through taxes we are forced to pay for armaments.

What do the two old parties offer by way of solution? Only the bitter alternative of greater war spending or depression.

In recent weeks, the twin candidates talk of peace and lower prices, but their actions lead to war and higher prices. Both urge more spending for war. Mr. Dewey does not even mention profiteering and Mr. Truman does not propose to curb the profiteers he has so recently discovered. Both support the cold war, the armaments-economy—both promote inflation.

It is because truth is a stubborn thing and because people have seen through their sham solutions, that they are forced to talk this way. Because these representatives of gluttony, seeking office, have been forced into a defensive position by the Progressive Party, expressing the honest anger of the people—they now speak against their bed-fellows and their backers.

Harry Truman tells you our party is powerless, but he is forced to adopt our arguments, to denounce the very men he brought into government. He is forced to cover up the shabby fact that he and his henchmen gave us meat at a dollar a pound and milk at 25 cents a quart.

Whatever their words today, they offer us the Hoover solution, the Hitler solution: an armaments-economy leading to war or catastrophic depression.

The real answer lies in the opposite direction. There can be no real reduction in the cost of living until we change the course of our foreign policy, until we end the suicidal plunge toward war, until we put a stop to the profiteering of 20 billions a year. Until we take away from the gluttons the fattest pork barrel in history, all talk of bringing prices down is false.

The only hope for cutting prices, for ending the danger of war, for a true defense of America, lies in reduction through the United Nations of the amount of money this country and all the other nations of the world are spending for war.

I say this can be done with safety—indeed it is the only safety. Cutting down on military budgets is needed not only to end inflation, it is needed (indeed it is a precondition) for any honest discussion of peace. Peace and low prices are inseparable, as war and high prices are inseparable.

We offer an alternative—not war or bust. Our plan is simple. First, a general price freeze. Then a roll back of food prices a minimum of 20%: bread down three cents, milk down 5 cents. Prices on other goods must be rolled back by squeezing out exorbitant profits. Farmers must be protected by subsidies which will assure them fair prices. Controls must be restored on scarce materials, so that homes can be built for our veterans and other homeless families. Rent control must be made effective.

BREAK MONOPOLY

Then the dead hand of monopoly must be broken. Monopoly's grip on the economy of the land must be ended. There must be a return to Roosevelt's ideal: a government planning on behalf of the people, planning for peace, planning for abundance.

They are powerful and they are entrenched, the men behind Truman and Dewey, and it is no easy matter to take away 20 billions in profits a year. But it can be done. A few months ago, when the price of meat became too high, you went on strike—the good housewives and husbands of America—and in some places you won. You made the meat trust retreat. There is healthy anger in the land against these men of the food trust, the munitions monopoly, the oil combine—and, organized, it can change the shape of America.

It is a political question. Let each housewife, pensioner, veteran, Negro, wage earner, and farmer say—with his ballot—"Thus far and no further. You lie when you tell us you want lower prices." For each vote for the Progressive Party is a warning to monopoly, is a vote for a return to FDR's policy of price control, to FDR's policy of getting along with all the nations of the world, to FDR's policy of breaking the monopoly stranglehold on our lives.

If this is done, we will bring in an era when a man, if he chooses, can have a steak for dinner and his children can drink a bottle of milk a day—and no atom bombs will fall.

Background of a Smear

What Kind of Congressmen "Investigate" Unions?

(see "From Washington, page 2)

BULLETIN

According to a news dispatch from Washington, two members of the House Labor Committee are being sent to Alaska to "investigate" the labor unions there. The two men are Congressman Charles Kersten (R., Wis.) and O. C. Fisher (D., Tex.). Congressman Fred A. Hartley (R., N. J.), co-author of the Taft-Hartley law and chairman of the Labor Committee made the announcement. FTA is the leading labor organization in Alaska.

Two committees of Congress—the House Labor Committee and the House unAmerican Committee—have been competing with each other lately in the job of "investigating" labor unions and other progressive groups. The United Electrical Workers, the Public Workers and the Fur and Leather Workers have been subjected to the House Labor Committee brand of "probe." FTA's turn is coming up, as the above bulletin shows.

The pattern is the same in each investigation. Leaders and rank and filers are brought before the committee to be grilled without benefit of counsel, without the right to answer questions, without any of the defenses of the Bill of Rights allowed to them.

What manner of men are these "investigators"? All you have to know about Hartley is his co-sponsorship of the law that bears his name—that and his threats to go even further if the next Congress has an overwhelming'y Republican majority. Said Hartley last month the quote is from the New York Times of Sept. 28):

(Republican Congressional leaders) "'failed to finish the job' of labor legislation in the last Congress. . . .

"He said that after the Taft-Hartley bill was passed, the leaders decided 'that no more legislation to which organized labor could possibly object' would be passed until after the 1948 Presidential election.

"'Republican leaders had an election to win: sound legislative principles were cast aside. That's why I'm writing this.'"

Those are Hartley's views on labor laws, frankly and cynically stated. Now, how about those of Kersten and Fisher, who have been baiting and bullying progressive union leaders and rank and filers of the UE, the Fur Workers and the Public Workers?

The best source of these is in the record of the two men in Congress. Both have voted consistently against labor and for the employers—Kersten 27 times in the 80th Congress alone, Fisher 31 times since 1942.

Kersten voted **for** the Taft-Hartley law; **for** the Gwynne bill outlawing back pay suits by workers under the Wage Hour act; **for** the Mundt-Nixon thought control bill.

He voted **against** the Taft-Ellender-Wagner housing bill; **against** funds for health and welfare; **against** guarantees of GI loans; **against** funds for rural electrification; **against** lifting the tax on oleo.

On the bosses' side, Kersten voted **for** a bill to exempt railroads and utilities from anti-trust suits and **for** turning over our remaining oil reserves to the oil trust.

Fisher is a Democrat from the polltax state of Texas. He too voted **for** Taft-Hartley; **for** the Gwynne bill; **for** the Mundt-Nixon bill; **for** the draft; **for** tax refunds to corporations; **for** "tax relief for the greedy" over FDR's veto; **for** exempting railroads, insurance companies and utilities from anti-trust suits.

He voted **against** polltax repeal; **against** the Taft-Ellender-Wagner housing bill; **against** rent control.

These are the men who have been "investigating" progressive CIO unions. These are the men reported on their way to Alaska, where FTA Local 7 has just won a better than 12 cents an hour raise, preferential hiring, checkoff and union protection for the workers in the salmon and salmon by-products industry.

Note: the Alaska salmon industry had a 1947 profit of close to $100,000,000.00. Previously, the industry had tried about everything in the bag to bust FTA—including phoney company unionism, gangsterism and of course the Taft-Hartley law.

Grain Workers Get 12c

FTA Local 492 has just won a 12 cents an hour raise for grain workers in Minneapolis, Minn., according to a report of Business Agent John Larson. Checkoff and other union gains are also included in the new contract.

FTA Protests Blacklist

Charging that the U. S. Atomic Energy Commission had acted "without trial, hearings or evidence" in blacklisting two CIO unions—the United Electrical and the United Public Workers—from work on atomic energy projects, the international officers of FTA this week called on the government to rescind the order immediately.

"The immediate result of this order is to rob workers in such plants of the right to join unions of their own choice and to bargain collectively on wage and conditions of work," the officers said.

"It gives employers a green light for wholesale wage cutting, discharge and blacklisting of union members. If allowed to stand, the order will be the signal for a rebirth of company unionism through American industry."

The Commission's order came in a letter from Commissioner David Lilienthal, himself the victim of considerable red-baiting some months ago, telling the General Electric Corporation not to recognize the UE since it did not use the Taft-Hartley Labor Relations Board. General Electric welcomed the letter and promised it would "obey" Lilienthal's directions.

First move in this new form of blacklisting by government order came in UE's big local 310 in Schenectady, N. Y., main plant of GE. Here Lilienthal announced that his letter was "only the first step in improving the situation at Schenectady."

Pointing out the danger to all unions in this move, the FTA officers said further in the resolution:

"The order must be rescinded at once. Otherwise it will spread to other industries and will be used against any union that does not measure down to the employers' requirements. The government must not be allowed to encourage employers to blacklist workers who join unions."

Eastern Locals List Contract Progress

Progress in signing contracts and in stepping up progressive political action is reported by FTA locals in Region I, covering New York and New Jersey.

In New York, the D. Emil Klein Cigar Co. has signed a contract after five months of protracted negotiations. A five cent straight across the board raise was made retroactive to January 1, 1948.

The Klein firm also agreed to set up a fund equal to an additional hourly increase of one cent for correction of inequities. Vacations were increased and severance pay of one week for the first five years and two weeks thereafter were also won. Permanent is revoked by the worker, was also checkoff, unless the authorization secured.

Local 56 in New Jersey signed a contract with the Henry Clay and Bock Cigar Co., also securing a five cent straight across the board raise for all workers except those in the hand made department. These workers are to be transferred to the machine divisions, with strict observance of seniority.

Local 647 signed with the Palumbo Cigar Co., winning a raise of 10 cents per 100 for cigar makers and 5. 5cents an hour to all others. The cigar makers increase will average 13.5 cents per hour.

Political action is reported from Local 273 in New York, where an "Amigos de Wallace" committee has been functioning and where registration in Rep. Vito Marcantonio's district has increased substantially.

FTA 61 Elects

FTA Local 61 recently elected its slate of officers for the coming year. Those elected were: President, George Paul; vice-President, Thomas Robinson; Financial Secretary, Stephen P. Durina; Recording Secretary, John R. Gerlach; Trustees, Carl Smith, James Werton, Richard Carroll, Barney Kinchen and Ira Miller.

Michigan workers were hit hard and unexpectedly when the state supreme court upheld the constitutionality of the Bonine-Tripp act, a little Taft-Hartley law. The decision "clarified" a Sept. 8 ruling which apparently had held the unionbusting measure unconstitutional.

One of the nation's leading market services has issued a special confidential report to its subscribers advising them what stocks to buy "in case of a sudden war." The report, prepared by Spear & Staff, Babson Park, Mass., is being sold for $2.

Aid Maritime Strike

The west coast maritime strike, now in its sixth week, is being prolonged by the shipowners in an open attempt to smash the two CIO unions involved, FTA international officers said this week in a statement released in Philadelphia.

Urging Truman and the U. S. Maritime Commission to force the shipowners into new negotiations, the resolution said: "The shipowners have used the Taft-Hartley law as a smokescreen for an attack on the unions, particularly the CIO Longshoremen, and have publicly stated they will not deal with a union that refuses to submit its members to Taft-Hartley procedure."

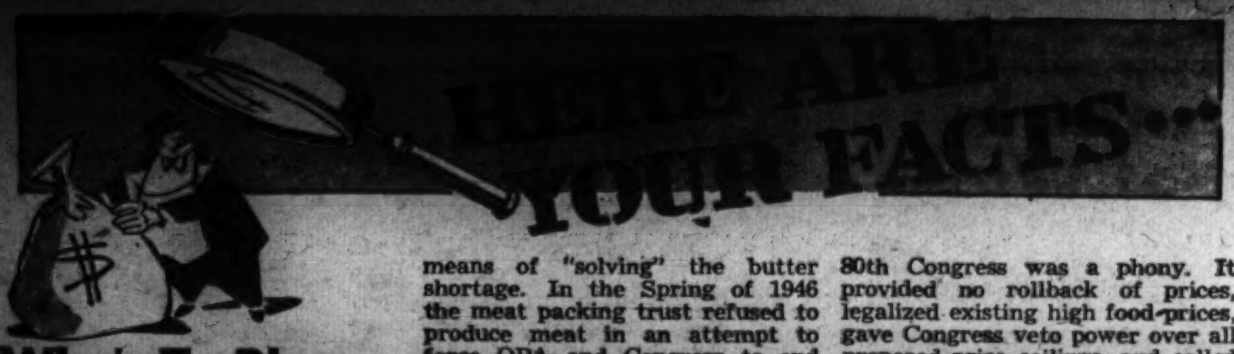
This has been done, the statement pointed out, "despite a 100 percent rank and file repudiation of Taft-Hartley by the members of the ILWU," who unanimously boycotted a Taft-Hartley "election" with the result that literally no workers took part in it.

The Maritime Commission, which owns up to 95 percent of the stock of some shipping lines, has made no move to end the strike—despite Truman's campaign speeches on the right of labor and his public demand for Taft-Hartley repeal.

Many labor cases were among the several hundred matters facing the U. S. Supreme Court for decision as it formally opened the 1948 fall term. Among these are an action by three rail brotherhoods attacking the right of Judge T. Alen Goldsborough to grant a permanent injunction against their planned strike of last July.

Here's part of the crowd of worker-delegates that cheered Henry Wallace's acceptance speech at the nominating convention in Philadelphia, Pa. More than 1,500 of the 3,000 delegates to the convention were union members.

Alabama farmers crowd around a table set up at a Farmers Union picnic to sign a petition to President Truman urging a foreign policy leading to "an era of peace, not to a destructive war."



Who's To Blame For Inflation?

By Joseph Califf
Research and Education Director

President Truman is going around the country blaming the Republicans for the high cost of living. "The murder of price control is a skeleton in the Republican family closet," he said a few days ago.

There is no doubt about the big part the Republicans played in putting the OPA out of business two years ago. They don't deny it. They even boast about it.

But the record shows that Truman is even more responsible than the Republicans for today's high prices. Truman's record on price control, as on most other issues, is one of talking like the champion of the people while he stabs them in the back.

To see the picture clearly, we have to look into the history of what happened to price control following the end of the war.

The first fact to remember is that the 79th Congress, which destroyed the OPA in June and July 1946, was controlled by the Democrats, not the Republicans. Both parties had a hand in the murder.

Even before that, however, Truman and his Administration had so weakened controls on prices that the ending of OPA was almost inevitable. In less than seven months between V-J Day and March 1946, the OPA allowed 5,000 price increases. The big break in the price front came on February 14, 1946, when Truman surrendered to the steel trust and ordered a $5 a ton increase in steel prices.

This action broke the "hold-the-line" policy established by President Roosevelt three years before. After that, price increases came thick and fast. By May 1946, 3,000 commodities and services had been removed from price control entirely.

During all this time, price control was actively sabotaged by some of Truman's top officials, including Secretary of Agriculture Clinton P. Anderson and Civilian Production Administrator John B. Small. On several occasions Small came out openly for price increases as a means of increasing production, and removed controls on scarce materials as fast as he could.

In January 1946, Secretary Anderson proposed that the price of butter be raised 18c a pound as a means of "solving" the butter shortage. In the Spring of 1946 the meat packing trust refused to produce meat in an attempt to force OPA and Congress to end price controls. When the government tried to meet the situation by putting controls on slaughtering, Anderson stepped in and stated publicly before the Senate Banking and Currency Committee that price controls would be removed if the meat supply situation wasn't cleared up within 90 days.

This was an open invitation to the packing trust to continue its sabotage, which it did. The meat shortage engineered by the packers was a big factor in the failure of Congress to renew strong controls on prices.

Farmer and consumer groups demanded that Anderson be fired, but Truman did nothing.

Even after Congress passed a new and weak price control bill, on July 25, 1946, Truman made no fight to use what power he had left to hold prices down. In September the meat packers again went on a sit-down strike to try to blackmail the Administration into throwing out price controls once and for all.

Truman could have beaten this attack by requisitioning livestock, rationing meat and taking over the packing industry. (He didn't hesitate to take over the railroads to break the railroad workers' strike.) Instead, he gave in and on October 15 removed all meat price ceilings. The OPA Consumers Advisory Committee denounced this action in the following words:

"The President's action in removing price controls on meat has dealt a body blow to the American consumer. . . . The result of this action is to turn loose the forces of inflation on food and invite additional pressure from other producer interests for the removal of controls on other products."

On November 10, Truman gave up entirely and abolished all remaining controls on prices except those on rice, sugar, and rent.

Truman's miserable record was summed up in these words by Consumer's Union, an impartial consumers' organization:

"Price control was not so much defeated; it was largely destroyed from within by the Administration, which never hesitated to retreat but was always afraid to fight."

Truman's record since the end of OPA has been the same — talk big, do nothing. Through most of 1947 he tried to talk prices down by calling on industry to reduce prices voluntarily. The bosses responded to each plea by thumbing their noses and hiking prices again.

Finally, on November 17, 1947, public anger over inflation forced Truman reluctantly to ask Congress to restore price ocntrol. But only a month before this, on October 16, he had cut the ground from under his own proposal by denouncing price controls and rationing as "police-state methods." Senator Taft and other enemies of price control were quick to use this statement to block any action.

The program for controlling inflation (S.1888, the Barkley Bill) which Truman presented to the 80th Congress was a phony. It provided no rollback of prices, legalized existing high food prices, gave Congress veto power over all proposed price ceilings, and called for a wage freeze. This was adopted by the Democratic Party as part of its election platform.

Even this is not the whole story of Truman's record of hypocrisy on the cost of living. Here are other examples:

On November 8, 1945, he approfits tax and reducing income taxes on corporations. This provided an incentive for raising prices, thus increasing the pressure onOPA and setting off an orgy of profiteering.

Rationing of most basic items was abandoned shortly after V-J Day. As a result black markets sprang up, making the job of holding price ceilings more difficult.

The War Production Board and the Civilian Production Administration threw overboard most controls on the allocation of materials shortly after V-J Day. This led to black marketing in steel and other scarce commodities, artificial shortages, and speculation. This, too, increased the pressure on prices.

In December 1946, Truman wrecked the emergency veteran's housing program by removing controls on building materials and lifting the $10,000 ceiling on the price of new homes. Housing Expediter. Wilson Wyatt resigned in protest. Deputy Housing Expediter Norton Long also resigned and denounced Truman's housing policy as a fraud, charging that the President's action "seems to set a pattern for a boom and bust."

Another thing contributing to today's inflation is the bi-partisan cold war policy, which cost American taxpayers more than 10 billion dollars last year and will cost 14.4 billion dollars this year in expenditures for armaments. Still another factor is the Marshall Plan under which we are spending billions of dollars to prop up reactionary governments abroad and put the Nazis back in power in Germany.

On this record, you're a sucker if you vote for Truman with the idea that he will ever do anything about the high cost of living. A vote for Truman, like a vote for Dewey, is a vote for higher and higher prices, more and more inflation, and lower and lower standards of living for the American worker.

See Need For National Health Insurance Plan

By Physicians Forum

Most workers recognize the need for some system which will eliminate the financial barriers to good medical care. While national health insurance is the soundest method for meeting this need, it does not solve all problems arising out of illness. Another vital need is a national sickness and disability insurance system which will help the worker support his family when illness cuts short his earnings.

Certain diseases result in permanent disability, such as rheumatic fever which attacks the heart valves and may leave the heart permanently damaged, or rheumatoid arthritis which attacks the joints and may leave the patient partially crippled. The need for insurance protection when disabling diseases of this type occur is particularly acute, and is the subject of a report recently issued by the Advisory Council on Social Security.

This group has recommended disability insurance legislation to the Senate Finance Committee, and states in its report:

"The family must not only face the loss of the breadwinner's earnings but must meet the costs of medical care. As a rule personal savings and other resources are soon exhausted. The problem of the disabled younger worker is particularly difficult since he is likely to have young children and not to have had an opportunity to acquire significant savings."

Sickness and disability insurance works somewhat on the same principle as health insurance. The worker and employer both pay a monthly sum into a fund out of which benefits are paid to help sick or disabled workers feed, clothe, and house their families.

This type of insurance has many advantages especially if benefits are sufficient to be of real help if the system is properly administered, and if monthly deductions are reasonable. It enables the worker to take time off from work and rest when he has a heavy cold or the flu.

Workers are acutely aware of the vicious cycle brought on by illness. The loss in wages during disabling illness results in the inability to purchase necessary medicines and medical care. Without adequate medical care sickness becomes aggravated, lasts longer, and the total income lost mounts steadily. This further aggravates the problem of supporting the family and purchasing medical care. This cycle can be broken by a double-barreled campaign for national health insurance, and national sickness and disability insurance.

Local 59 Wins New Contract

It took three months of hard negotiating and a strike vote, but FTA Local 59 has its new contract from the Libby, McNeill and Libby cannery in Rochester, Minn.

For 90 days the company refused to yield on the wage issue, sticking stubbornly to a five cent offer for seasonal workers and a seven cent offer for the year 'round workers.

Finally the local took a strike vote — which won overwhelming support — and the company saw the light. The contract was signed with a 12 cent raise retroactive to June 1 plus union checkoff and other gains.

From now on the company will pay for uniforms and for laundry, will provide two 15-minute rest periods, and sick leave with pay. The union is secured from liability for unauthorized strikes. The contract, won after a long struggle, was unanimously ratified by the membership.

Facts For Filing

"It may come as a surprise to some people to know that out of 60,000 local unions in the U.S., less than 8,000 have shown a desire to use the union-busting Taft-Hartley Labor Board by filing so-called 'non-communist' affidavits, and that out of some 250,000 local union officers, only 75,000 have signed them.

"This is not because these people are communists, but because they correctly understand the character of the Taft-Hartley Board as a union-busting agency and don't want to have anything to do with it." *(Radio speech of FTA Pres. Henderson, Sept. 26.)*

This is the treatment union representatives get from the Congress Labor Committee. Police guard, on orders of chairman, unceremonious UE-CIO official David Sentner from hearing room when UE leaders tried to conduct him. Every law sworn to (U.S. allows accused the right of counsel—except the longshore combo set up by Congress.

The right to independent political action apparently isn't recognized in Georgia, where Klan-backed Herman Talmadge has just become governor. These Progressive Party workers were attacked and beaten in Atlanta while canvassing for Wallace.

Top Smear Artist In Hot Water

The nation's top smear artist—Chairman J. Parnell (Feeney) Thomas of the Congress Committee on unAmerican Activities—is in trouble.

The U.S. Department of Justice is interested in him—on two counts. The voters in his own bailiwick—Bergen County, New Jersey—are after him on several dozen counts. And his own beautifully manufactured "spy scare" against union leaders and other progressives is falling flat on its face.

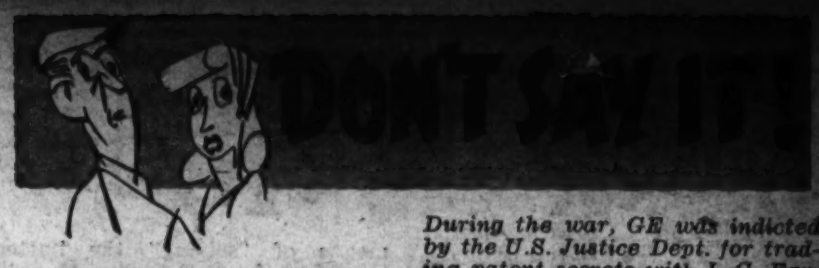
Justice Department officials are interested in widely published charges by columnist Drew Pearson that the Congressman required government employes on the unAmerican Committee payroll to kick back part of their salaries to him.

Even Attorney-General Tom Clark—no smalltime witch-hunter himself—has come out and denounced the "spy" scare as being totally unfounded, unable to stand up in court and without a shred of real evidence. Clark is refusing to order court action on the basis of stoolpigeon and hearsay "testimony" in Thomas's committee.

On top of that, 17 leading lawyers in New Jersey are pressing for action on the kickback stories, calling on the Attorney-General to look into them.

Perhaps worst news of all to (Feeney) Thomas is the united fight a group of Democrats, Republicans and Progressives is putting on in Bergen County to make certain that he becomes a former Congressman November 2. The group is backing Democratic candidate John J. Carlin from (Feeney) Thomas's own home town.

Thomas's only comment to all this—plus nationwide criticism of his unAmerican methods—has been the cryptic statement: "I refuse to be intimidated."



The Wall Street Journal can afford to be frank at times, because the big boys who read it want the facts. Take this, for example, from the Aug. 11 issue: "Farm products are mainly foodstuffs and food prices are basic in the price-wage structure. Abundant crops are ripening in the fields. According to our national policy, embedded in complicated statutes by Democrats and Republicans alike, a bumper crop is a national calamity."

* * *

You hear a lot about the "law of supply and demand." It's supposed to adjust eevrything. But in August, 1948, New York state dairy farmers produced more milk than the year before, while consumers drank less. With supply up and demand down, what happened to prices? In August 1948 milk was 3.5 cents a quart higher than in August 1947. The dairy trust got the price increase. Kids got less milk.

* * *

Things you wish you hadn't said: "Nothing has demonstrated more clearly than this special session of the 80th Congress the complete bankruptcy of both the Republican and Democratic parties as presently constituted and aligned." Walter P. Reuther, president of the UAW-CIO, in the union paper this summer. Reuther is now supporting Truman for President.

* * *

And this, from Hugh Scott, chairman of the National Republican Committee: "We are the best stock, we are the best people and represent the real grit, backbone and brains of America."

* * *

The Natl. Association of Tobacco Dealers heard a talk at their recent convention with the title: "Is It Possible to Effectuate Ethical Business Practices Among Competing Distributors?" Boiled down to simpler language, the title should have read: "Is It Possible to be Honest and Stay in Business?"

* * *

Union members in General Electric plants are being told their union can't represent them for "security" reasons. During the war, GE was indicted by the U.S. Justice Dept. for trading patent secrets with I. G. Farben, leading Nazi chemical trust and Hitler backer. During the same war, the union (UE) was repeatedly praised by Roosevelt, Nimitz, Eisenhower and others for its members' patriotic work on war production.

* * *

When it comes to figures, the Natl. Association of Manufacturers has one set for the government and another for themselves. As required by law, the NAM filed a report with Congress showing they spent only $146,000 on lobbying in 1947, the year the Taft-Hartley act was passed. The NAM budget shows a total of $5,488,716 spent in addition on such items as "government finance," "government relations," "law," "total legislative activities," "public relations," etc. Pass the salt, please—and not just a pinch.

* * *

During a campaign speech, the engineer of Dewey's special train started backing up into the middle of the audience around the rear platform. Must have thought he was the 80th Congress.

* * *

..Then there was the incident of Truman planning to send a personal envoy to Moscow to try to straighten out the Berlin situation, only to be ordered to lay off foreign affairs by his Secretary of State. Truman must have thought for a moment he was President of the United States.

* * *

The dollar in your pocket today is worth less than 55 cents, compared to its pre-war buying power. Inflation has eaten up the 45 cents.

* * *

On January 27, 1945, three months before he died, Franklin D. Roosevelt said: "I am grateful for the things that Henry Wallace has done as a great Secretary of Agriculture and as a Vice President with a clear voice to the conscience and the hopes of men everywhere. You and I can be grateful also for what Henry Wallace is in the meaning of the things we have been trying to do to make a better America. America, its people and government, [illegible] said, his wisdom and courage."

Main Issue Wages, Henderson Tells

(see page one)

The main issue in the election among the 10,000 packingshed workers of California and Arizona is wages and conditions, FTA President Donald Henderson said in a final radio speech before the poll in which the Teamsters union was defeated in favor of FTA.

"The central and single issue in the election is whether or not the shed workers will retain this militant and progressive union—FTA—which they have built, or whether they will turn their union over to the Teamsters and a handful of discredited and expelled former officials," he said.

"Diabolical efforts have been made to confuse, frighten and smear the names, reputations and motives of thousands of shed workers. These efforts just do not stand up in face of the record of the thousands of shed workers who are members of FTA Local 78.

Henderson went into some detail in discussing FTA's refusal to subject itself to the Taft-Hartley Labor Board.

..."As an international union, FTA has voted not to use the Board," he said. This was not a personal policy of my own, but a policy unanimously decided at a national FTA conference called expressly for the purpose of considering the Taft-Hartley law.

The law itself does not require unions to comply unless they wish to get involved with the Labor Board, he pointed out, adding that employers, realizing this fact, "began a concerted campaign to convince union members that the law is not such a bad thing, that they might as well 'obey' it, and that qualifying for Board services is identical with 'obeying' the law.

"It's also the law that you have to be buried within three days after death," Henderson said. "This doesn't mean that you have to kill yourself in order to obey the law. No—you have the legal option of staying alive—and most people prefer it that way."

The People's Health

Every year 325,000 people die because of lack of medical and hospital care.

Every year 4,300,000 man-years of work are lost through bad health.

The losses resulting from sickness and disability amounts to $27,000,000,000 a year on an annual basis.

These unnecessary deaths and losses due to ill health are to be found among lower-income groups which can't afford adequate medical care. They are greater than the casualties of the United States in the last war.

Yet Congress refuses to pass legislation which would make medical care available to the entire people and thus protect the people's health.

(Statistics from the report of the U. S. Federal Security Administration, The Nation's Health).

Charles Williams, (wearing placard) secretary-treasurer of FTA Local 103, Marvil, Delaware, and Progressive Party candidate for Delaware State Assembly, looks over a leaflet with Charles Zimmerman (left) of the Wallace Caravan, group of singers who came to the Local 103 picketline to help out in a recent strike.

Blast Tobacco Trust

The tobacco trust—one of the largest and most profitable in the U.S.—gets a thorough going over in the current issue of "Facts For Farmers," now being widely distributed to tobacco farmers by FTA and the Progressive Party in North Carolina.

The study points out how the trust has successfully cheated and robbed tobacco farmers, workers and consumers for generations. Methods of rigging tobacco auction sales, low wage scales for workers and high, fixed prices to consumers are analyzed.

Copies of the special study, prepared by the Publicity and Research Departments of FTA in cooperation with "Facts for Farmers," may be obtained from Farm Research, Inc., 39 Cortlandt St., New York 7, N. Y., at two cents each in bundle orders.

Local 236 In New Contract

A new contract adding further gains to members of Local 236 has just been signed in Whitewater, Wisc. The local had already won a wage increase in the spring, giving its members the highest pay rates for milk plants in the state, according to local President George West.

The new agreement has the checkoff as outlined in the FTA model contract plus 15 days sick leave wieh pay. A 60 day wage reopening clause is included, plus the right of theunion to terminate the contract if no settlement is reached.

Both the local and the international union are protected against strike suits under the Taft-Hartley law, and the agreement runs until January 1, 1950.

Local 48 members believe in all-out support of their FTA union, organized in the Kraft Foods plant at Newcastle, Ind. All of the eligible workers there are paying dues and grievances are being settled promptly.

Local 7 for Wallace

FTA Local 7, Seattle, Wash., has endorsed Henry Wallace for President and has set up a working Wallace Victory Committee.

FTA Lawyers Blast UnAmerican Comm.

Members of the Congress unAmerican Activities Committee have reason to wish they hadn't tangled with FTA lawyers Lee Pressman and Nathan Witt over the phoney "spy" scares that filled the papers earlier this season.

They've found out that people who fight back at unAmerican smears can hit hard, and already they're running for cover. Going especially fast is Congressman McDowell, the eminent Republican manufacturer and labor-baiter from Pennsylvania.

When the two attorneys, plus lawyer John Abt of the Progressive Party were hauled up by the committee on the say-so of a paid rumor-monger, they refused to answer questions about their personal political beliefs. This right to refuse to answer such questions is guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution, to which even Congressmen are subject.

The "spy" smear collapsed of its own weight. When that failed them, McDowell came forward with the unoriginal idea of citing the three for "contempt." The three attorneys promptly challenged the Committee to an open hearing in court—and now McDowell is retreating from that proposition too.

"We regard McDowell's threat as directed against us particularly because we are lawyers who represent the labor and progressive organizations which he and his colleagues seek to destroy," the FTA lawyers said.

"Mr. McDowell would deprive those we represent of the right of counsel in the struggle we are jointly conducting against the attack on the Bill of Rights by the unAmerican Committee.

"Mr. McDowell's recent performances speak for themselves. He gives the American people one spy scare after another; he regards as traitors those who supported FDR in his policy of unity among our wartime allies; and that he is at this moment in headlong retreat from a request that he appear before a Grand Jury and give testimony to support one of his recent irrational charges."

The chairman of the Committee, J. Parnell (Feeney) Thomas, is also in a bit of a retreat himself—from charges of kickbacks forced by him on government employes that are now being looked into by the Department of Justice.

New York CIO Aids Sick Strickers

In New York City, strikers or their families who are sick can get free treatment through the new Medical Clinic recently opened by the Greater New York CIO Council and the Doctors Committee to Aid Strikers.

Medical care at no cost is provided to all strikers and their families irrespective of union affiliation, by a panel of 423 doctors, who belong to the Doctors Committee.

If a striker or any member of his family is too ill to visit the clinic, arrangements can be made for home visits by a doctor.

All eligible patients seeking treatment through the clinic must obtain a referral card from the person in the union designated to handle such cases. Unions can get referral cards from the Greater New York CIO Council.

Cases requiring prolonged treatment, or surgery, will be directed to doctors and dentists practicing in the boroughs where the strikers live.